

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05679 260821Z

12  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 /046 W  
----- 129488

R 260750Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9286  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINTO BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5679

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SY  
SUBJECT: ROUNDUP ON INTERNAL SITUATION

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ANOTHER BAATHIST OFFICIAL WAS ASSASSINATED IN HAMA AUGUST 22. SOURCE, WHOSE PREVIOUS INFORMATION ON HAMA HAS CHECKED OUT, PRESUMES ASSASSINS BELONGED EITHER TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD OR WERE FOLLOWERS OF MUHAMMAD UMRAN (LEADING SYRIAN ALAWITE MILITARY FIGURE ASSASSINATED IN 1972, REPORTEDLY ON ORDERS OF ASAD REGIME).

2. USUALLY RELIABLE SYRIAN TOLD US THAT TOTAL OF EIGHTEEN LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN AND PRO-IRAQI SYRIANS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN PAST WEEKS AND CHARGED WITH PLANTING BOMBS IN DAMASCUS AREA.

3. SAME SOURCE AS PARA TWO ABOVE TOLD BY SENIOR OFFICER IN RIF'AT AL-ASAD'S DEFENSE COMPANIES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ON HIGH STATE OF ALERT FOR PAST TEN DAYS. SOURCE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE FOR THIS ALERT.

4. COMMENT: DEFENSE COMPANIES USUALLY PUT ON ALERT  
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WHEN PRESIDENT ASAD DEPARTS SYRIA, AND ASAD'S TRIP TO

COLOMBO NAC MAY PARTIALLY ACCOUNT FOR ALERT. ANOTHER  
FACTOR IS OBVIOUSLY TENSE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION.  
WE UNCERTAIN WHETHER FIGURE OF EIGHTEEN ARRESTEES IS  
IN ADDITION TO THIRTEEN REPORTED DETAINED IN  
DAMASCUS 5387 OR REPRESENTS CUMULATIVE TOTAL. RE  
PARA ONE, INCLINATION TO ATTRIBUTE MOST RECENT  
ASSASSINATION IN HAMA TO FOLLOWERS OF MUHAMMAD UMRAN OR  
MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SUGGESTS VICTIM WAS PROBABLY ALAWITE.  
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ASSASSINATION, MOSLEMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC05679  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760325-0861  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
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